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In a way you are quite right: since I have not read Mr. Buchanan's book, I may not be justified in calling it trash. Certainly I had no intention of giving you any personal offense.

Nevertheless I am still appalled at what I can infer from the reviews the book has had, and from your own remarks. The willingness of respected men like yourself to give credence to this scandal-mongering is exactly what stimulates people in other parts of the world to their scepticism. But to quote Paris-Match is about like Chicago Confidential; there are always many people abroad willing to believe the most incredible things so long as they are derogatory about the U.S. Do you really mean to lend the weight of your name to that? I don't know Mr. Buchanan; but none of the newsmen I do respect gives me the slightest basis to doubt the Warren Commission report. On the other hand, the author of this kind of book has every motive to dig up whatever sensations he possibly can; otherwise what will he have to sell?

Quite apart from Mr. Warren's integrity, the idea that the whole apparatus of government, to the extent it would have to be, could possibly be involved in a conspiracy of silence on this sort of issue is preposterous beyond belief. Besides that, my personal knowledge of the President's family puts outside of the remotest possibility that they would acquiesce in any such *it* cover-up. I would sooner believe that Mrs. Kennedy was the culprit.

However, I am merely explaining why I do not believe it worth my time to spend a moment reading the book. If I felt it necessary to become more of an expert, I would have to develop my own personal knowledge and insight of the details brought out in the hearings, to an extent I would consider unreasonable. Meanwhile I do rely on the judgment and integrity of a vast number of informed people whose access to the details is much better than mine, and who could have nothing to profit from distorting the truth. If you accepted it as conceivable that some overriding patriotic motive is their motivation (and I don't have that lively imagination myself) you might take some pause to consider what service you are doing your country by promulgating this sort of suspicion. Howbeit, I foresee we would be wasting one another's time at attempting any persuasion. I feel I should thank you for the pains you took to answer my quick scribble.

To ~~the~~ answer to another question-- I haven't the faintest idea why you put my name on your list; but then that would be like my calling you up on the phone and asking you why I was ringing you up.

Yours sincerely,


(Professor) Joshua Lederberg